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LETTER DATED 13 JULY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present to you a letter, dated 11 July 1992, from the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Mr. Alija Izetbegovic.

Due to the quickly changing nature of events in our country and the very poor communication links with Sarajevo, this letter is already in need of an update.

In view of this situation, I have been asked by the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to inform you of the most recent developments related to the appeal delivered by H.E. Mr. Alija Izetbegovic, which I will do in an attached letter.

May I ask for your kind assistance in that the President's letter and my update letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Annex I

Letter dated 11 July 1992 from the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

We are writing to you to ask you to urgently summon the Security Council session in order to send an ultimatum to Serbia and Montenegro to stop their criminal attack against the innocent citizens of Gorazde, which is unprecedented and represents the twilight of civilization.

As we write, this innocent population is dying and being killed in circumstances which are beyond comprehension.

Since 12 April Gorazde has been under total siege: 70,000 people exposed to the aggression of Serbia and Montenegro, without electricity, water, food or medicine, including 40,000 refugees, mainly women and children, from neighbouring towns of eastern Bosnia, and absolutely unprotected. This latest and most brutal attack by the aggressor began today, 11 July, in the early-morning hours. The aggressor is using aviation, two armoured brigades (more than 40 tanks), six artillery batteries, four multiple rocket-launchers, 40 lorry-loads of ammunition, and six divisions which are advancing on Gorazde from Serbia and Montenegro. Gorazde is not able to defend itself against such a force, and is threatened with complete destruction.

If this crime is not stopped within the next few hours, mass massacre of innocent civilians will occur, causing a serious loss of confidence in the ability of the international community to act accordingly.

(Signed) Alija IZETBEGOVIC

Annex II

Letter dated 13 July 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to address you on behalf of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to inform you about the latest developments related to the issues addressed in the letter to you dated 11 July 1992 from our President, H.E. Mr. Alija Izetbegovic.

The barbaric attack on Gorazde continues with all the brutal intensity that the Belgrade regime can muster.

In addition to the original massive force originating from two Yugoslav bases, one in Serbia, and the other in Montenegro, the aggressor has been further reinforced from the same bases. Reports from the area indicate that the tank count has now almost doubled, with close to 100 tanks now committed to destroy Gorazde. Troop size has also been enlarged. Furthermore, Belgrade has already conducted several air raids against the city, the last being reported today.

Gorazde is by no means the only town suffering from escalating brutal aggression against our country and our civilian population.

Numerous towns along the lengthy border with Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro have come under attack from the Belgrade regime. Most of the troops, with the most sophisticated weapons, have come from Serbia and Montenegro. Many have come from areas controlled by the Belgrade regime in Croatia.

Gorazde, nevertheless, has the greatest potential to become a maelstrom of genocide and destruction, as it has now become home for thousands of children, women and elderly, already seeking refuge from "ethnic cleansing" in surrounding towns and villages.

In pursuing this brutal campaign, the Belgrade regime and its surrogates have targeted Gorazde, at this time, for several reasons:

1. Belgrade aspires to consolidate its hold on a broad corridor, running as an arc, from eastern to northern and western Bosnia and Herzegovina. This will connect not only all of the areas under Belgrade occupation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also occupied areas in Croatia.

2. Belgrade aspires to pre-empt any international relief efforts into other areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and especially Gorazde, the last major town under Government control in this area, lest it might have to carry out its "ethnic cleansing" campaign under the watchful eye of the international community and media.

3. Belgrade saw an opportunity in lag time between the last meeting on Bosnia and Herzegovina in Helsinki and the ability of the same States to respond promptly and effectively to a new offensive over the weekend. This follows a pattern where the most brutal and naked aggression begins at the onset of a weekend, as Belgrade deems that it would be difficult for the Security Council to gather and mount a timely response.

In view of the situation in Gorazde and many more towns in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we humbly request that the Security Council take all steps necessary, including air power, to stop this "humanitarian nightmare" from deepening, by neutralizing the attacks on our population centres around Bosnia and Herzegovina, and especially Gorazde, which are now being overshadowed by the valiant relief efforts in Sarajevo.

Furthermore, we humbly recommend that the Security Council moves to initiate relief flights to Tuzla, a city north of Sarajevo. The city's airport and environs are under Government control, and could be used as an efficient distribution point for delivery of relief to Gorazde and other desperate towns nearby.

May I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative